Growth, Development and Present Status of Industries in Asansol-Durgapur Region, West Bengal

SYNOPSIS SUBMITTED BY-

GOSAI MAJI

UNDER THE SUPERVISOR-

PROF. UMA SHANKAR MALIK

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

VIDYA-BHAVANA

(Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences)

VISVA BHARATI SANTINIKETAN, WEST BENGAL,

INDIA

Gosai Maji

अध्यापक / Professor
भूगोल विभाग / Department of Geography

1.0 Introduction:

It is recognized that, Urban Economic Activities is largely dependent on development of infrastructure, such as power, telecom, transportation, water supply, sanitation and solid waste management. For the cities to reach its potential and to develop truly as Growth Canters, a long-term vision, an assessment of the present status of the region, focused strategies and action plan needs to be developed. At the same time, Urban Local Bodies needs to be strengthened in order to make them independent and self-sustaining so that they are capable of developing and implementing sustainable projects on their own. ULBs also need to develop systems to ensure that they remain transparent and accountable. With these vision the present study is devoted to study the nature and pattern of urban agglomeration in Asansol Subdivision, social ecological problems arising thereof and reformation strategies so as to strengthen the Urban Local Bodies and to make them strong, sustainable and accountable with the objective of ultimately creating economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive cities.

2.0 Location and Extension of the Study Area:

Asansol-Durgapur-Industrial Region located in the land area between the river Ajoy on northern side and river Damodar on the southern side comprising of two Municipal Corporation centering the city Asansol (AMC) and Durgapur (DMC), 3 municipality, namely Kulti (KM), Jamuria (JM) and Raniganj municipality (RM) and 7 rural blocks namely Salanpur, Barabani, Jamuria, Raniganj, Andal, Pandabeswar, Durgapur-Faridpur and Kansa Community Development Block (Figure 1). This region is the second largest urban agglomeration in West Bengal after Kolkata and the 39th largest urban agglomeration in India.

The region is a part of the Burdwan District which extends 87°10' E to 87o20' E longitude and 23°88' N to 23°36' N latitude with area coverage of 478.31 square kilometers. The area is bounded on the North by river Ajoy followed by Birbhum District of West Bengal, on the East by the rural block of Kanksa, on the South by the river Damodar and Bankura and Purulia Districts and on the West by river Damodar demarking the state border with Jharkhand. Its hinterland is Bankura and Purulia districts and North Bengal, linked to parts of Orissa and Jharkhand states.

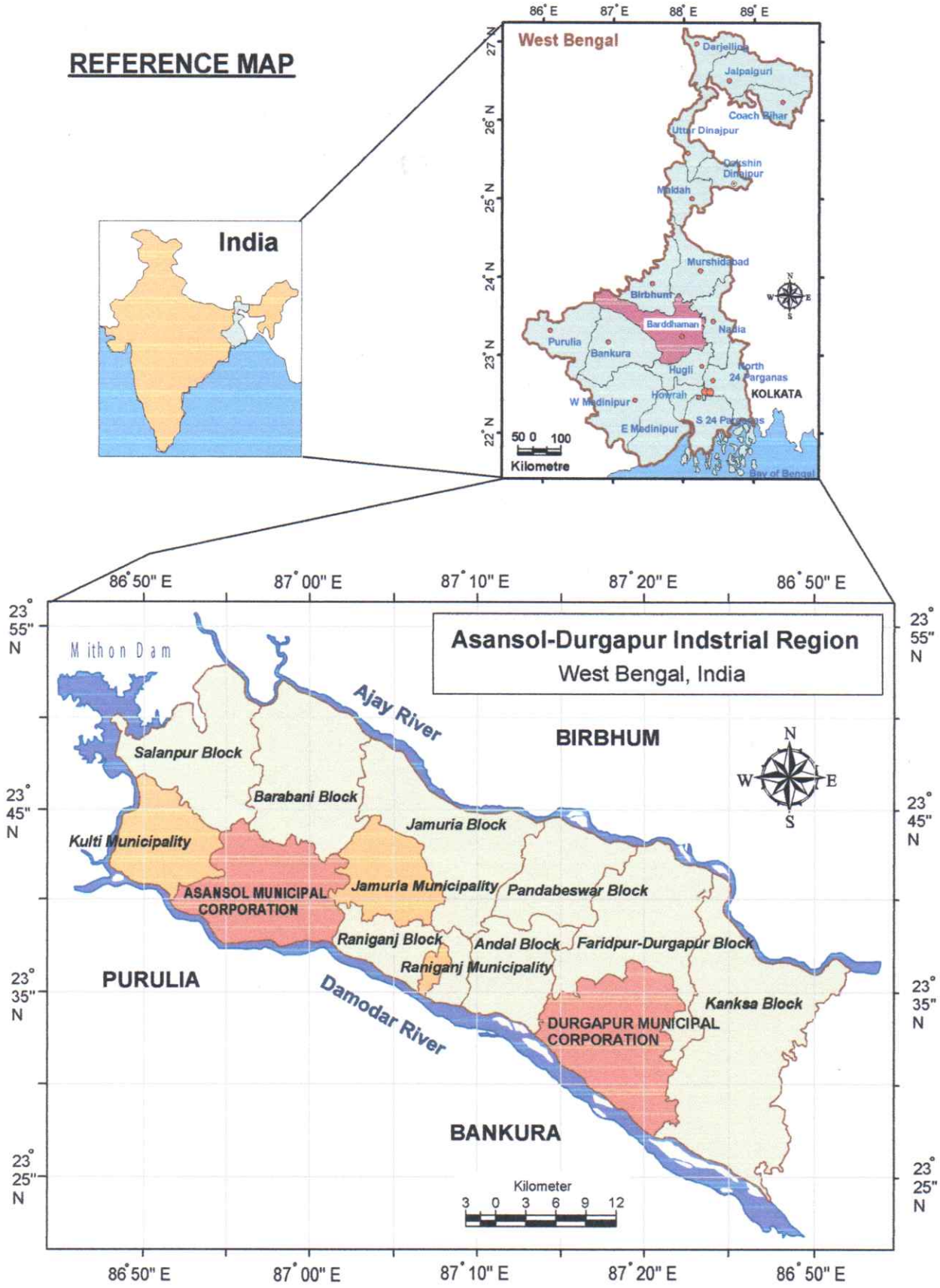

Figure 1: Reference map of the Asansol-Durgaur Industrial Region showing the CD Blocks, Municipal Corporation and Municipalities of the study area.

According to a report released by International Institute for Environment and Development, a UK-based policy research non-governmental body, Asansol and Durgapur is among the 11 Indian cities in the list of 100 fastest growing cities in the world with a rank of 42. Raniganj, Asansol, Kulti, Burnpur, Barakar and Chittaranjan are some important industrial agglomeration point of the region. As per 2011 Asansol-Durgapur industrial Area having a total population of 15, 66,937 with its density of 3667 persons/sq. km. Topography of this area is generally flat and sloping from North to South. Number of canals passing through the area ultimately led to the river Damodar, acting as drainage canals of the area. The soil of the region is undulating lateritic type with vegetation mostly of tropical deciduous type and hot humid monsoonal climate.

3.0 Hypotheses:

The study on growth, development, problem and prospect of industries of Asansol-Durgapur Industrial Region (ADIR) is based on some key assumptions as follows-

First: There are broad-ranging impacts of the industrial agglomeration on the rural land use, especially agricultural,

Second: deterioration of the environment as a whole is very much prominent in the study area, as a result of the industrialization.

Third: Urban Local Governance of the study area is not functioning as expected.

4.0 Aims and objectives:

The overall objectives of the present research proposal is to enlighten the existing situation with the view to forward baseline dataset and results for strategic planning by respective authorities/bodies that can create economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive cities.

The prime objectives are –

1. To redefining the image of the Asansol-Durgapur industrial region area from geographical approach,
2. To assess the industrial growth and development status of the region from its initial stage.

3. To enlighten the present status, the strengths and weaknesses of the industries of this region.
4. To evaluate basic services to the Urban Poor through delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access,
5. To assess the environmental threats arising out of the industries of this region.
6. To highlight problems and prospects of urban growth and industrialization in the study area.

5.0 Data base:

Data will be collected from both primary and secondary sources

The Primary data will be collected directly from the field through questionnaire survey study regarding different aspects of urban agglomeration problems, social and organizational structure.

Published data from various departments and authorities, like District Census Handbook of Burddhaman, District Gazetteer of Burddhaman, State meteorological department, Geological Survey of India, National Atlas and Thematic mapping organization, Survey of India, Asansol, Durgapur, Jamuria, Kulti municipality corporation, Asansol-Durgapur ment Authority etc. will be consulted for the present work.

6.0 Research design:

The research work is based on the empirical study of specific urban unit. At the beginning in-depth literature review from relevant books, journals, administrative reports, government publication etc. has been done to specify the research problems and selecting the area and topic of this research work. In order to acquire data on the various amenities in Durgapur, the Budget Estimates and Administrative Reports of different years have been obtained i.e. 1983- 84, 1993-94, 2003-04 and 2007-08. Secondary information on the study area has also been obtained from the Census. Primary data for the study was obtained through intensive field survey in selected Wards of Durgapur Municipal Corporation. Simple random sampling technique taking more than three per cent of the total households of the selected wards has been done.

Photographs of the relevant features have also been captured from the field for visual reference.

Research methodology is the way of collecting, testing and analyzing the existing ground reality. Fruitful research design certainly gives a special tint to the standard of research work. As per colloquial principal in geographical research, to fulfil the objectives the researcher would like to proceed through some crosscutting steps like

Pre field Work

- Consultation of topographical, geological etc. maps and imageries over the related ground,
- Delineation of the area and base maps on different geo-environmental aspects,
- Consultation of literatures available on the proposed study area,
- Identification of the geo-economic problems of the study area,
- Previous literature survey and identification of the research gaps, Framing of working rules as per colloquial principles,
- Preparation of questionnaire survey etc.

Field Work

- Field survey through structured questionnaire
- Collection of the secondary data on the related ground

Post Field Work

- Preparation of Site map
- Statistical and graphic presentation different primary and secondary
- hypothesis testing

7.0 Justification behind selecting the study area:

Urban agglomeration is a prominent in Asansol sub division. The problems are also wide spread. As a resident of the area I have seen the nature and kind of urban social ecological dis equilibrium in this stretches of land. As a centre of economic and social activity, the rigion provides a critical mass of population. At the same time, the exponential growth in population places severe strain on urban amenities and infrastructure such as housing stock, public transport system, water supply, rubbish

collection (solid waste), sanitation and sewerage systems. Also, unplanned development leads to creation of slums and clustered settlements. A large number of its citizen is deprived of the basic urban services. Urban environment also gets severely affected. These are some of the inspiring basis for selecting the Asansol subdivision as my study area

8.0 Brief chapterization:

Chapter 1: Conceptual framework:

The introductory chapter will include Background of the development of the study area, hypothesis, Objectives and Overall Goals, database and methodology, evaluation of industrial agglomeration, importance of the study, Literature review etc.

Chapter 2: Geographical Set-up of the Study Area:

This chapter will encompass geographical background of the study area namely- Location of the Asansol-Durgapur Industrial region, Climate of the Region, Soil Profile of the Region, Land use, Resource Base & Industries, Demographic Structure, Institutional Responsibility, and Organizational Structure etc.

Chapter 3: Resource Base and Infrastructural Support:

Raw materials, Land availability, Water, sanitation and drainage: Gap Analysis, Schemes & Programs etc., Transport and communication: Growth & Linkage, Some key issues like Congestion of NH-5.6, Power, and Solid Waste Management: Rationale Situation Appraisal.

Chapter4: History of Industrialization.

General economy of the area, Importance of ADDA in the economic history of Bengal, Backgrounds and recent trends of industrialization- Pre-colonial, Colonial, Post-colonial period of industrialization since independence, Recent status and trends: Establishment of Asansol-Durgapur as a Growth Centre in Barddhaman, Nature and causes of the change in their status.

Chapter 5: Demography and Economic Base:

Overall Population, Growth Rate (Decadal) and Projections, Population Density, Age mix and Sex Ratio, Literacy Rate and Educational institutions, Workforce Variance and Income Variance. Workforce Breakup Economic Welfare, Economic base: Contribution of Govt. and non govt. organizations, Policies and planning.

Chapter 6: Spatial Distribution, concentration and Diversification of Industries:

Temporal pattern of industrial distribution, some major industries, spatial concentration of industries, location quotient of industries, industrial linkages, industrial diversification, major sites and potential sites.

Chapter 7: Highlights and Structural Analysis on Some Major Industries:

Mining Industries, Engineering and metal-based industries, Mineral-based industries, Chemical- based industries, other industries: Agro-based, Tourism, Structural change: trends of development: workforce, capital input & technology, Production trends of the selected industries.

Chapter 8: Urban Expansion, Industrialization and the environment consequences:

Situation Appraisal- Surface Water, Ground Water, Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Urban Expansion & Susceptibility to natural disaster etc, Land Subsidence, Land crisis and conflicts: Project implementation- institutional, administrative and political problems, Industrial disputes and others Socio-economic problems.

Chapter 9: Problems and Prospects:

Aspiration and achievement gap, Identifying the problems and potential sectors of Development.

Chapter 10: Hypothesis testing and Conclusion:

General Suggestions: Major Action Points- Construction of Industrial Parks, Shifting Wholesale Markets outside the City, Relocation of Slums, City Beautification etc. Measures Recommended Policies for development.

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अध्यापक / Professor
भूगोल विभाग / Department of Geography
विश्वभारती / Visva-Bharati
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